Border issue between Assam and Meghalaya

825. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to sate:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'North-East Age', dated the 3rd June, 2002 under the caption "Border issue may turn serious: Lyngdoh";

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to diffuse the border tension between Assam and Meghalaya which may snow-ball into a major problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Arrest of Syed Ali Shah Geelani

826. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact with the arrest of Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani and his associates, Government has established their links with ISI over the years;

(b) whether any enquiry or probe has been conducted for the intelligence failure as these leaders *inter alia* enjoyed State security cover; and

(c) if so, the results thereof and if not, the steps being taken to revamp intelligence agencies and make them accountable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) It is a known fact the terrorism in J&K is aided and abetted by Pak ISI and funding of terrorist outfits is one part of their elaborate infrastructure for terrorism. While investigations are at a preliminary stage, the arrest of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and others, appear to further corroborate the aforesaid stand.

(b) The security cover is provided by the State Government on their assessment of threat perception regarding the life and safety of a particular person.